



**CITY OF NEW HAVEN
BOARD OF ALDERS**

Darryl Brackeen, Jr.
Alder, Ward 26

Member
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Legislation Committee
Youth Services Committee
Affirmative Action Commission
Ad Hoc Living Wage Commission

300 Ray Road
New Haven, CT 06515-2334

Telephone: (203) 479-2855
E-mail: Ward26@newhavenct.net

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Good Day, Esteemed members;

My name is Darryl Brackeen, Jr., and I am serving my first term as a member of the New Haven Board of Alders, representing the 26th Ward. As a graduate of Fairfield University and currently seeking higher education, who also is inundated with student loans in order to achieve my educational goals, stand in support of the Student Bill of Rights Legislation in the form of Connecticut General Assembly raised bill no. 6915. I believe higher education is the most important investment a student can make in determining his or her future.

The cost of education is out of control, and the current crisis of mounting student loan debt is grave. Two-thirds of students graduating from U.S. colleges and universities are graduating with some level of debt. According to The Institute for College Access and Success, the average borrower will graduate \$26,600 in the red; and one in ten graduates accumulate more than \$40,000. More than 70% of those earning a bachelor's degree graduate with debt that average \$28,400 at public and non profit colleges.

Every student should be able to access the resources needed to pay for college and should have a right to an affordable payment plan, quality customer services, access to reliable information, and fair treatment.

Keeping student loans affordable is a must. Taking action today by supporting and passing the Connecticut General Assembly raised bill No. 6915 will help borrowers responsibly manage their debt, improve student loan servicing, and protect taxpayer's investments in the student aid program.

The Connecticut General Assembly raised bill 9515 Student Bill of Rights Legislation ensures strong consumer protection for hard working student borrowers. It also ensures that all students seeking higher

education can have a vision and the comfort of knowing that an affordable, quality education is attainable. The Connecticut General Assembly raised bill 6915 Student Bill of Rights Legislation also pushes the Department of Education and other federal agencies to work collaboratively to do more to help borrowers afford their monthly loan payments.

I urge you to strongly support the push for strong measures for all student loans borrowers, including private loan borrowers. I urge you to support General Assembly raised bill 9515 the Student Bill of Rights Legislation.

Thank you

Darryl Brackeen, Jr.

Alder, 26th Ward

City of New Haven